

## LINDSEY MARSH DRAINAGE BOARD

Minutes of a Meeting of the Board held at the Grange and Links Hotel, Sutton on Sea, on Wednesday, 30th January 2013, at 9.00 a.m.

- |                                      |                                |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| * Messrs G. Billings (Vice-Chairman) | * Cllrs H. Marfleet (Chairman) |
| * W. Cooper                          | * Mrs J.P. Bradley             |
| * G. Crust                           | S. Dennis                      |
| * J.L. Dodsworth                     | * A.J. Howard                  |
| T.H. Heys                            | T.J. Knowles                   |
| * J.M. Mowbray                       | * E.P. Mossop                  |
| * R.H. Needham                       | R.J. Palmer                    |
| * P.W. Pridgeon                      | * W. Parkinson                 |
| * D.R. Tagg                          | * M.A. Preen                   |
| R.A.D. Unsworth                      | J. Upsall                      |
|                                      | * Mrs P.F. Watson              |
- \* Present
- \* Messrs A. McGill (Chief Executive)
- \* D.J. Sisson (Engineer)
- M. Mitchell (Director of Technical Services)
- \* R.P. Mitchell (Director of Operations)
- \* S. Thackray (Director of Finance)
- \* In attendance

### 1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Messrs T.H. Heys, R.A.D. Unsworth, Cllrs S. Dennis, T.J. Knowles, R.J. Palmer and J. Upsall.

### 1a. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mr G. Crust declared an interest in Agenda Item 13 (Planning Applications).

### 2. NOTIFICATION OF ITEMS OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS

It was agreed to discuss membership of the European Centre of Employers and Enterprise under any other business.

### 3. BOARD MINUTES (Pages 950 to 968)

It was noted that the reference to the 'Louth Scheme' in minute 13 - referred to the Louth and Horncastle Flood Alleviation Scheme.

### RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Meeting of the Board held on 28th November 2012 be confirmed as a correct record subject to the deletion of 'and Long' first sentence, paragraph 4 of the Operations Report.

4. MATTERS ARISING

4:1 Minute 7:2, Page 951 - Health and Safety Works at Weedscreens

The Chief Executive reported that confirmation had now been received for 100% grant aid on the health and safety works.

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4:2 Minute 10:1, Page 954 - Board Meetings

Mr R.H. Needham agreed that the period of time between the March - June meetings and June - September meetings was too long. Mr P.W. Pridgeon emphasised that if a member was unable to make one of these meetings, it would mean six months between meetings. He stated that he would like to see the May and July meetings reinstated.

The Director of Finance agreed to try and get the Final Accounts prepared earlier so that the meeting could be brought forward to May. The Chief Executive reported that minutes of Board meetings could also be dispatched earlier.

The Chairman suggested that the Board hold a tour of inspection in May if a Board meeting was not held.

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4:3 Minute 13, Page 958 - Finance

Cllr Mrs P.F. Watson reported that the Louth Flood Alleviation Scheme being undertaken by the Environment Agency was on target to be completed by 2015.

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4:4 Minute 17:2, Page 961 - Precept

The Chief Executive reported that the Isle of Axholme and North Nottinghamshire Water Level Management Board had recently taken on the maintenance of a main river for the Environment Agency. The decision had been made at a meeting of the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee and the work would be undertaken initially under Section 13(4) of the Flood and Water Management Act prior to the de-maining procedure being carried out and the asset being transferred to the Board. It was hoped that the Board would eventually take over responsibility for the watercourse and that more work would be forthcoming.

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4:5 Minute 17:3, Page 962 - Donna Nook

The Engineer reported that he had followed up the concerns raised at the last Board meeting. He confirmed that access to the pumping station was not as good as it could be but was not impeded. He stated that the banks had been raised to the appropriate levels.

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4:6 Minute 20, Page 963 - Byelaw Applications

The Engineer confirmed that East Lindsey District Council did propose to install a footbridge and were aware that byelaw consent would be required from the Board.

5. DRAINAGE RATES AND SPECIAL LEVIES

Drainage rates and special levies collected up to 15th January amounted to £3,143,794.53; 95.3% of the total due for the year. Reminders regarding third instalment payments had been posted.

It was noted that there had been an increase in the overall amount received from agricultural ratepayers due to a new intensive Poultry units being erected in the area.

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6. FINANCE

The attached report was presented by the Director of Finance.

The Director of Finance reported that deposit rate continued to fall and he would investigate accounts available from alternative deposit takers and funds would be transferred from the Beverley Building Society account to spread the risk to the Board.

Regarding the forecast for 2012/13, it was noted that the continued heavy rainfall would increase the overspend on pumping stations to more than estimated at the time the report was prepared.

Recharges from Trent Valley Internal Drainage Board and the Isle of Axholme and North Nottinghamshire Water Level Management Board were expected to be in the region of £200,000. These would be higher during the current financial year due to additional services being provided by officers and the DLO during the recent heavy rainfall.

Mr P.W. Pridgeon stated that he was very pleased to see money being spent on pumping stations and drain maintenance.

Regarding outstanding loans, Mr P.W. Pridgeon suggested that, as two loans were due to be paid off shortly, it would be advisable to consider what work needed to be done over the next few years and take loans out while the interest rate was low. The Director of Finance reported that this would involve identifying schemes and obtaining Environment Agency approval before being able to apply to the Public Works Loan Board. No major projects had been identified for 2013/14 but Saltfleet Pumping Station was due for major refurbishment in 2015/16 at an estimated cost of £1m. The Chief Executive stated that officers would review the works at Saltfleet Pumping Station to see if it was prudent to bring forward the work.

Mr J.L. Dodsworth stated that the recent wet weather had proved that being ahead of the game was the best way as the Board's systems had coped very well and also enabled us to help our Consortium partners. He congratulated all the staff.

Mr D.R. Tagg agreed that the Board should consider what major capital works lay ahead and asked that Officers report back to the next meeting. The Engineer stated that he would review the whole of the forward programme and prepare a report for consideration. Mr W. Cooper stated that, should the Board agree to bring some of the major schemes forward, it must ensure that there was sufficient money in the budget to undertake the investigatory work necessary before applying for grant aid. The Engineer estimated that it would take 18

months to get any grant application through.

Cllr A.J. Howard enquired whether the life span of any assets had been reduced because they had been working more during the prolonged wet weather. The Chief Executive confirmed that, although the pumps were designed to work like this, there would be additional wear and tear. The Engineer confirmed that pumps were inspected annually and, if necessary, the forward plan was adjusted accordingly.

In response to Mr R.H. Needham, the Engineer reported that Saltfleet Pumping Station had been built after the 1953 floods and the old design would not make it easy to access and change the operating regime as it was not always possible to update like-for-like. The refurbishment may, therefore, include the rebuilding of the sump and replacement of electrical components, and the pumps.

#### RESOLVED

- (a) That the Board's financial position be noted.
- (b) That the Engineer undertake a review of future capital schemes and prepare a report for consideration at the next Board meeting.

#### 7. ESTIMATES OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR 1ST APRIL 2013 TO 31ST MARCH 2014

The Director of Finance presented Estimates of Income and Expenditure for the year which allowed the Board to continue its high standard of maintenance and flood risk management, undertake asset renewal schemes and replace major items of plant without an increase in rate, and rebuild the balances to recommended levels.

This budget and latest estimate had been prepared under the assumption that there would be no rate increase and was based on the following criteria:

Pressure on Public Finances The Board set a rate of 13.7p/£ for the 2011/12 and 2012/13 years. This equated to a real term cut in funding of 6.6% (RPI Nov 11 & 12). Due to the continued pressure on public finances and to support agricultural ratepayers, the budget proposed would again freeze the rate at 13.7p/£ for the 2013/14 year.

Inflation The Bank of England forecast inflation to fall to around their 2% target during 2013/14. This would represent a cut of almost 13% in real terms in Board income compared to the 2009/10 year. These inflationary increases had been absorbed in the budget by continued improvements in efficiency and sharing costs within the Consortium.

Tax Increases and Pension Fund The Board continued to be impacted by indirect tax increases in fuel duties and National Insurance contributions and inflationary pressures on fuel and other costs. The Board would not be affected by the Government compulsory pension enrolment schemes as it already provided benefits that comply with the new requirements, however, in 2014 the new Career Average Earnings Scheme would mean that overtime and bonus would be included in pensionable pay. This should be offset by reduced employer contributions in the new scheme.

Consortium Working The budget assumed that the Board would continue to provide full administration and engineering services to the Isle of Axholme and North Nottinghamshire Water Level Management Board (IOANNWLMB) and the Trent Valley

IDB (TVIDB), and engineering and operational services only to the Scunthorpe and Gainsborough Water Level Management Board (S&GWLMB).

The Director of Finance stated that, although an unchanged rate was proposed for 2013/14, the continuing inflationary pressures and major asset renewal expenditure planned in subsequent years would make a rate rise for 2014/15 very likely.

Officers reported that the 2012/13 year had reinforced the need to retain balances at a sufficient level. The record rainfall during the year had resulted in greatly increased pumping station running costs. Balances had been used to fund the cost of major flood events, major unplanned plant repairs, the excess risk element in projects due to unforeseen circumstances and the working capital requirements of the Board.

After running deficits for a number of years that were funded out of balances, in 2011/12, the Board had set a rate to start to rebuild balances towards that recommended by good practice (25%-35% of gross annual expenditure). The Director of Finance stated that the proposed balanced budget would maintain balances and equate to 24% of the reduced net annual expenditure at 31/3/14; this was still below the levels maintained by the Board during 2006 and 2007 of 37%. This level reflected the building of balances to fund the major asset renewal projects in the medium term plan (i.e. Saltfleet Pumping Station replacement). The attached 2013/14 budget allowed for net expenditure of £3.274m; £455k lower than the 2012/13 revised estimate and £400k lower than the 2012/13 budget (which included £594k of accruals), so excluding accruals, a net increase of £194k. The Director of Finance stated that this would provide a balanced budget for the year and reported as follows:

- (a) Income - Interest income combined with Highland Water payment was budgeted at £18k. Lower deposit interest rates would impact on interest earned in the budget year.
- (b) Pumping Stations - Electricity costs were based upon an average of the last six years plus 8% following the end of a two year supply contract for the major stations.
- (c) Drain Maintenance - This funded the annual weedcutting of all watercourses, slip repairs and increases reflecting higher labour, fuel and plant costs. It also included the cost of an extra second early weedcut on Strategic ordinary watercourses which protect high risk areas.
- (d) Reforming Schemes - This included a full reforming programme for 2013/14. It was likely that several schemes would be carried forward from 2012/13 as major delays had occurred due to the extremely wet weather.
- (e) Asset Renewal and Refurbishment Schemes - One project had received 100% grant aid (Mablethorpe Town Lane Drain), the remainder would be funded from revenue with contributions being received for the Winthorpe Storage Area HLS scheme and Water Tower Drain culverting. The cost included PWLB loan repayments of £85k. An allowance had been made in the sum of £13k top up to fund partnership initiatives budget, to include the River Steeping de-silting contribution.
- (f) Net Plant Purchases - The budget included all items provisionally approved by the Plant Committee and any outstanding hire purchase payments. This expenditure was greater than the budgeted plant depreciation charge of £170k for the year.

- (g) Support Services - An allowance had been made for the two additional employees, pension costs (2% employers contribution increase), and a 1.0% pay increase in line with the Government guidelines.
- (h) Environment Agency Precept - It was expected that this would remain unchanged from the current year.

*Cllr M.A. Preen arrived.*

As the Board's representative on the Pay and Conditions Committee, Mr G. Crust asked for a mandate from the Board to approve a 1% pay increase (the Government imposed public sector agreed amount) for all employees. Mr Crust reported that he would like to see a slight increase in the rate, particularly because of the much higher pumping costs this year, and suggested that a 2% increase in the rate should be considered. He considered that a slight increase in the rate each year was preferable to no increase and then a large increase. Mr Crust stated that the Board had held the rate for two years but could not continue to absorb the costs and that the Board must ensure there was sufficient money in the balances. The Director of Finance reported that a 2% increase would result in a rate of 13.97p.

The Chief Executive reported that the three year pay deal ran out last year and this was, therefore, being negotiated with the Unions on behalf of employees. If the formula was continued for a further year it would result in a 1.17% increase which the employers felt could not be recommended as it was in excess of that recommended by the Government.

The Chairman stated that if the Board decided to increase the rate it must be able to fully justify the reason.

The Chairman had recently attended a Regional Flood and Coastal Committee meeting where it had been highlighted that any Environment Agency (EA) issues should be passed on to Robert Caudwell. He stated that the EA did not have the funding to desilt the main rivers and the only way to ensure this work was completed in the Board's area was by working together. The Chairman stated that the Board must look towards the future and ensure that all its assets were fit for purpose. That said, there was continued pressure on ELDC to make cuts in the future and IDB reimbursement from central government to the councils was no longer shown clearly. He further stated that the Board must ensure that it had sufficient manpower to undertake any additional work coming from the EA.

Cllr Mrs J.P. Bradley favoured a standstill rate as long as the Board could undertake all necessary works.

Mr J.M. Mowbray agreed that the Board must look to the future. He stated that in the past the Board had held the rate but then had to make large increases to get back on track. He stated that the Board needed to know what likely increases there would be in future years.

Mr P.W. Pridgeon stated that the Board had put most of its own drains in good order and paid the EA precept towards work carried out on the main rivers; the Board should not be expected to contribute on top of this. He agreed that the Board should continue with the partnership but must also consider where the precept was being spent. Mr Pridgeon stated that the Board could undertake the work cheaper and should, therefore, encourage the EA to let the Board undertake work wherever possible.

Mr D.R. Tagg expressed concern that the precept money was being spent outside the Board's area and stated that he would like to see this spent on the main rivers. The Engineer stated that the EA did not have to ask where precept money was spent although they did ask the Board about the Louth scheme as they were having trouble getting the

scheme off the ground. He suggested that the Board ask the EA what plans they had for carrying out work on the coast. Mr D.R. Tagg stated that the IDBs used to have an annual meeting with the EA in Lincoln to discuss what work was being undertaken and he enquired why these meetings were no longer held as they were very useful.

The Chief Executive reported that the Board's Engineer was working with Partners to put together a common works programme which would detail all works being carried out in Lincolnshire by the various partners.

Cllr E.P. Mossop expressed concern that there was not enough provision for Pumping Stations, particularly as the Board would go over budget this year. The Director of Finance reported that the formula used to calculate the budget had proved successful in the past, however he was aware that there was a risk in the current year as the ground was already saturated. The Chief Executive confirmed that this was one of the reasons that balances (23% of budget) were so important and he assured members that Officers would monitor the costs throughout the year.

Mr P.W. Pridgeon stated that as long as the budget included all the works required he would support no increase in the rate. The Director of Operations assured him that the Board had a full works programme for next year and that all the work would be completed. He stated that it had been exceptionally challenging in 2012/13 due to the weather.

The Chief Executive reported that a Project Management Board had been set up in-house to monitor all the works in the programme and where they were with regard to progress and spend. He stated that it caused great concern to see works that had been rated for had not been carried out but assured members that these were monitored, the money accrued and the works would be carried out.

Cllr W. Parkinson reported that although the Board may get some criticism for an increase, he would like to see a slight increase in the rate to ensure that the Board stayed ahead of the game. He stated that a marginal increase was always preferable.

The Chairman stated that the Board had a balanced budget with no rate increase and justification would be required should the Board decide to increase the rate. Mr D.R. Tagg stated that the justification would be the additional costs incurred during the recent wet weather. Mr G. Crust enquired whether Officers expected any additional expenditure over next three months and stated that he would not want to see a 4% increase next year and was concerned that increases may be capped by the government.

It was proposed by Mr P.W. Pridgeon and seconded by Cllr Mrs P.F. Watson that the attached estimates of income and expenditure be approved and that no increase be made in the rate for 2013/14.

An amendment was proposed by Mr G. Crust and seconded by Mr J.M. Mowbray that a 2% increase in the rates be made for the financial year 2013/14.

A further amendment was proposed by Mr W. Cooper and seconded by Mr R.H. Needham that a 1% increase in the rates be made for the financial year 2013/14. A vote was taken on this amendment and it was lost five votes to eight.

A vote was taken on the amendment to increase the rates by 2% and this was lost. A further vote was taken on the proposal to hold the rate and this was carried; there was one abstention.

RESOLVED

- (a) That Mr G. Crust be given delegated authority to approve a 1% pay increase for employees at the Pay and Conditions Committee meeting.
- (b) That the Engineer prepare a list of all Environment Agency watercourses and assets that required work for consideration at the next Board meeting.
- (c) That the Chief Executive contact the Environment Agency with a view to setting up an annual meeting with IDBs.
- (d) That a summary of ongoing and proposed works be presented to the next Board meeting.
- (e) That the attached Estimates of Income and Expenditure for the year commencing 1st April 2013 be approved in the sum of £3,274,311.
- (f) That the amounts to be raised by means of drainage rates in respect of agricultural land and agricultural buildings, special levies on the local charging authorities and estimates of the amount added to balances, for the year commencing 1st April 2013 be as follows:
  - (i) by drainage rates levied in respect of agricultural land and agricultural buildings £802,173,
  - (ii) by special levy on East Lindsey District Council £2,489,636,
  - (iii) by special levy on North East Lincolnshire Council £7,235,
  - (iv) by addition to balances £24,733,
- (g) That the special levy for the financial year commencing 1st April 2013 on East Lindsey District Council be made and sealed in the sum of £2,489,636.
- (h) That the special levy for the financial year commencing 1st April 2013 on North East Lincolnshire Council be made and sealed in the sum of £7,235.
- (i) That the statutory record of levies be made up, and
- (j) That the drainage rate for the financial year commencing 1st April 2013 be made and sealed in the total sum of £13.70 pence in the pound.
- (k) That it be made clear to all ratepayers and District Councils that an increase would be likely in 2014/15.

## 8. COMPENSATION CLAIMS

The Chief Executive presented a schedule detailing seven compensation claims totalling £3,410.11 which had been paid in accordance with the Board's approved rates.

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## 9. OPERATIONS REPORT

The Director of Operations presented the attached report detailing works undertaken by the Board's Direct Labour Organisation (DLO) since the last meeting. It was noted that the winter maintenance programme which usually started on 1st November had been delayed until January because of the heavy rainfall.

The Director of Operations reported that there had been six separate flood events in 2012. Members asked him to pass on their thanks to the workforce for the work undertaken, particularly during these events.

It was noted that emergency pumping equipment had also been hired to the Consortium Partners whose areas had suffered greater excess rainfall than Lindsey Marsh.

In response to Mr D.R. Tagg, the Director of Operations stated that the DLO reported the condition of the Board's watercourses other assets and this information was input onto the Asset Management System and work scheduled into the works programme as required.

At Strubby and Manby an average of 78.85mm of rainfall had been recorded in November and 112.75mm in December. Pump run hours totalled 183 in November and 370 in December.

Regarding resources, Mr P.W. Pridgeon confirmed that the Plant and Compensation had considered what additional plant and equipment would be required should the Board undertake more work on main rivers. It was agreed that this should be reviewed and brought to the Board for information.

Mr W. Cooper referred to the rainfall and pumping data, which showed that some of the pumps had run for 18 hours a day. As this suggested there was not much freeboard, he asked that this should be reviewed to ensure that provision was made for the future, e.g. climate change.

The Engineer reported that rainfall had been very localised and the figures recorded may not, therefore, give a realistic indication of the amount of water that had fallen in some parts of the area.

### RESOLVED

- (a) That the Officers' report be noted.
- (b) That the Director of Operations undertake a review of manpower and machinery to see what additional resources may be required should more work be forthcoming from the Environment Agency.

## 10. HORNSEA OFFSHORE WINDFARM

The Engineer reported that discussions were ongoing with SMartWind regarding development proposals for an offshore wind farm sited approximately 100km of the East Riding of Yorkshire coast. An essential element of the scheme was the onshore infrastructure which consists of up to four cable trenches laid between the landfall point at Horseshoe Point and the connection to the National Grid at Killingholme. The Engineer stated that the infrastructure would cross a number of Board maintained and private watercourses for which the Board's consent was required.

SMartWind was in the process of applying for a Development Consent Order (DCO) from the Planning Inspectorate. In order to streamline application procedures the DCO allowed for other legislation to be overridden and SMartWind had requested that the DCO overrides the requirement to obtain the Board's formal consent relating to private watercourses under Section 23 of the Land Drainage Act 1991 and the Board's Byelaws. The Engineer stated that the Board's written agreement would, however, be needed prior to the Planning Inspectorate overriding the Board's Byelaws.

The Board's Officers had met with representatives from SMartWind who had confirmed that the Board's requirements, which were normally set out as conditions on consent documents, would be included within 'Protective Provisions' and would be conditions of the DCO. SMartWind had also confirmed that the Board's costs involved with management of this process would be reimbursed.

The Chief Executive stated that this had been referred to the Board's solicitors for advice.

It was noted that the proposals would also affect the extended area where applications made under Section 23 of the Land Drainage Act were managed by the Board on behalf of Lincolnshire County Council (LCC), the Lead Local Flood Authority. SMartWind was discussing this directly with LCC.

The Chief Executive reassured members that the works would be undertaken at no detriment to the Board's assets or any future works.

#### RESOLVED

That the Board agree not to exercise its powers under Section 23 of the Land Drainage Act 1991 and the Board's Byelaws with regard to this application, subject to confirmation from the Board's solicitor that all of the Board's requirements were secured within the Development Consent Order through Protective Provisions and subject to all current and future costs being met by SMartWind.

### 11. ASSET RENEWAL AND REFURBISHMENT PROJECTS

#### 11:1 CCTV Asset Surveys 2012/2013

The Engineer reported that the CCTV survey and jetting works had been completed. A claim for dealing with additional silt was being assessed and full condition and defect reports were being prepared. Once complete, a report would be presented to the Board for approval.

#### RECEIVED

#### 11:2 Strategy 2025 - Anderby Pumping Station Pump Refurbishment

Refurbishment was completed on the 19th December 2012 and the pumps had been in regular use since that time with no problems. The Engineer confirmed that there was a two year defect liability period included.

The order for the installation of the new pump condition monitors had been submitted.

Mr J.M. Mowbray reported that the diesel engines had been run to assist when an electrical problem had been experienced at Anderby Pumping Station. The Director of Operations confirmed that this problem had been rectified.

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11:3 Health and Safety at Weedscreens

The Engineer was pleased to report that the Environment Agency had confirmed approval of grant aid for the above works. A requirement of the grant aid was to "market test" the cost estimates and this was being undertaken by Officers.

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12. PARTNERSHIP WORKING - ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

Mr P.W. Pridgeon reported that a recent LALC publication had included a full report on the work of the Environment Agency and councils but there was no mention of IDBs. It was considered unfortunate that the Board's partners had on this occasion not mentioned drainage board activities in the article.

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13. DELEGATED MATTERS

13:1 Byelaw Applications

The Engineer reported that consent had been granted under delegated authority for the following works:

B077-2012 - Re-location of an existing overhead electric pole on the left bank of the Trusthorpe Main Drain South at national grid reference TF 49442 81026 in the parish of Trusthorpe.

B078-2012 - Replacement of an existing overhead electricity line crossing various Board maintained watercourses (as detailed on the attached schedule) between Trusthorpe and Alford within the parishes of Mablethorpe, Trusthorpe, Hannah cum Hagnaby, Beesby, Saleby with Thoresby, Bilsby and Alford.

B079-2012 - Re-building of an existing overhead electricity supply crossing the Board maintained Crabtree Lane Drain at national grid reference TF 51865 80151 in the parish of Sutton on Sea.

B080-2012 - Re-building of an existing overhead electricity supply crossing the Board maintained Crabtree Lane Drain Branch No. 2 at national grid reference TF 52043 80589 in the parish of Sutton on Sea.

B082-2012 - Installation of an 11KV electric cable across an existing culvert on the Board maintained Catchwater Drain in High Street at national grid reference TF 50475 64974 in the parish of Burgh Le Marsh.

B083-2012 - Construction of two surface water outfalls in the left bank of the Board maintained Winthorpe North Drain at national grid reference TF 56418 66238 at Skegness Water Leisure Park, Walls Lane in the parish of Skegness.

B085-2012 - Installation of a water main within eight metres of various Board maintained watercourses (as detailed on the attached schedule) prior to the de-commissioning of the existing water main within the parishes of Saltfleetby All Saints and Saltfleetby St Clements.

B086-2012 - Increase of the flow of water to the Board maintained drainage system from commissioning of the new main (as shown on the attached schedule) within the parishes of Saltfleetby All Saints, Saltfleetby St Peters and Saltfleetby St Clements.

B087-2012 - Replacement of an existing brick arch culvert with a new 21 linear metre culvert on the Board maintained Middle Drain East at national grid reference TF 50853 83379 at North Road in the parish of Trusthorpe.

B098-2012 - Extension of an existing culvert by 1.5 metres on the Board maintained Church End Land Drain Branch No. 2 at national grid reference TF 41813 95764 at South Road in the parish of North Somercotes.

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### 13:2 Section 23 Consents

The Engineer reported that the following consent had been granted under delegated authority since the last meeting:

LMDB/LDC/2012/016 - Eradication of approximately 970 linear metres of private watercourse between national grid references TF 43666 91472 and TF 43891 91062, and TF 43701 91494 and TF 43942 91103 in the parish of Saltfleetby St Peter.

RECEIVED

### 13:3 Planning Applications

The Engineer reported that Officers had consulted on 38 planning applications since the last Board meeting. Objections had been made to the following applications and a response was awaited:

N031/02492/12 - Extension at Chapel St Leonards. The proposed extension would be within eight metres of the Board maintained Sea Road Drain.

N084/02351/12 - Construction of dwellings at Hogsthorpe. Hedge planting had already been carried out without the Board's consent. Historic surface water flooding had occurred in this area and the Board's Officers had advised that adequate provision must be made for the evacuation of surface water to protect existing properties within this area.

N125/02422/12 - Caravan site with pond and amenity buildings at Mumby. This application included a significant amount of planting which would prevent access to the Board maintained Green Lane Drain.

S023/02360/12 - Erection of properties at Burgh le Marsh. There were already drainage issues in this area and the Board was assessing the requirement for improvements to the system. The Board's consent to increase the flow of water could not be granted unless off-site works were undertaken to increase the capacity of the land drainage system.

RECEIVED

#### 14. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

##### 14:1 Winthorpe Flood Storage Area

The Engineer confirmed that Natural England's offer for this Higher Level Stewardship Scheme had been accepted and commenced on 1st December 2012. The Board would receive an income of £3,770.75 per annum for the next ten years which had increased since the last report.

It was noted that Natural England would also be providing £46,512.50 for the capital works. This was higher than originally reported and meant that the net cost to be financed by the Board was reduced from £17,000 to £6,400. The Engineer reported that tenders had been received for the following works:

Creation of a ridge and furrow landscape with 2,653m of drains, 6m wide by 1m deep in the bed of the Flood Storage Area, that were designed to attract breeding waders. Two ponds with raised spits covered with gravel to provide additional nesting sites. Total Cost £27,620.70; the cost was higher as the surplus soil would need to be removed from the Flood Storage Area to maintain the flood storage capacity.

Access improvements consisting of lowering the east/west public footpath, providing a hard surface and drainage, four viewing screens and fencing to exclude the livestock. This would allow footpath use to continue while avoiding disturbance to breeding birds. Total Cost £13,137.40.

Erection of new stock fencing, cultivation and seeding of the site. Total Cost £12,154.25.

The Engineer reported that work would commence in late summer 2013.

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##### 14:2 North Outmarsh Drain Diversion

The Engineer reported that Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust (LWT) had purchased approximately 17 hectares at Huttoft Bank that was bisected by the upstream 362 metres of the Board maintained North Outmarsh Drain. A request had been made by LWT for this watercourse to be diverted along the western boundary of the land.

The Engineer stated that the diversion would extend from the North Outmarsh Drain to the Golf Course's culvert under Huttoft Bank road. The new watercourse would be approximately 800 metres long. The cost of the diversion would be met by LWT, however, the Board would have an additional 438 metres of watercourse to maintain. The diversion would provide an improved outfall for the golf course.

Mr J.M. Mowbray stated that this watercourse was an important link to take water from the golf course. The Alford Drainage Board had taken over this watercourse after problems of flooding of the golf course and car park.

Mr G. Crust enquired whether, if consent was granted, the Board could charge LWT the cost maintaining the additional length of watercourse in the future. Mr P.W. Pidgeon agreed and suggested that this be calculated over a 20 year period and paid up front. Mr Crust suggested 30 years. The Engineer agreed that it may be possible to charge a commuted sum for the additional future maintenance costs.

RESOLVED

That 362 metres of the upstream section of the Board maintained North Outmarsh Drain be diverted along the western boundary of land at Huttoft Bank subject to LWT agreeing to pay the whole cost of the works and a commuted sum to cover future maintenance costs of the additional 438 metres of watercourse.

15. HEALTH AND SAFETY

There were no matters to report.

16. MEMBERSHIP OF THE EUROPEAN CENTRE OF EMPLOYERS AND ENTERPRISE (CEEP)

The Chairman reported that membership of CEEP was due for renewal shortly. As there was no UK representative leading on 'Water' issues an approach was made to LMDB to take an active part in this role. The Board had, therefore, agreed to join CEEP in June 2011 in order to influence European and National legislation before it is implemented and to strengthen the voice of the Board within UK government organisations. Although there were benefits in remaining a member, the Chairman stated that he could not justify the Board contributing to this to the extent that was required. He stated that an approach would be made to Lincolnshire County Council to see if they would be willing to contribute towards the cost of sending a representative.

RESOLVED

That the Board does not renew its membership of CEEP.

CHAIRMAN